

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a system and apparatus for efficient and reliable,  
5 control and distribution of data files or portions of files, applications, or other data objects  
in large-scale distributed networks. A unique content-management front-end provides  
efficient controls for triggering distribution of digitized data content to selected groups of  
a large number of remote computer servers.. Network distribution messages are  
dispatched according to a sorted list of servers, based on factors such as nearness, server  
10 processor speed, reliability, and CPU Usage. For large numbers of servers, a store-and-  
forward approach becomes much more efficient. A first selected server receives the  
message from a content control manager (CCM). The first server requests instructions  
for the next server listed on an ordered list in the CCM and forwards a copy of that  
message to the next identified server. Each server reports its completion and requests  
15 further instructions from the CCM. This mechanism permits highly efficient and robust  
distribution of assignments and data content from the CCM to each required GL using a  
store-and-forward tree structure.

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